

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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Our Heroes

By Walter E. Myer

THIS month we turn in grateful memory to two of our national heroes. We celebrate the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. It is appropriate as we pay our tributes of respect to the memory of these heroes that we should reflect upon the qualities which contributed to the greatness of these men. These qualities, rare though they are, are not as completely unattainable as might be thought.

The more we study the career of Washington, the plainer it becomes that his position in history is due chiefly to sterling qualities of character rather than to technical expertness or brilliance of mind. "There have been greater generals in the field and statesmen in the cabinet in our own and other nations," says historian James Truslow Adams. "There has been no greater character."

"When we think of Washington," continues Adams, "it is not as a military leader, nor as an executive or diplomat. We think of the man who by sheer force of character held a divided and disorganized country together until victory was achieved, and who after peace was won still held his disunited countrymen by their love and respect and admiration for himself until a nation was welded into an enduring strength and unity. . . . When the days were blackest, men clung to his unflinching courage as to the last firm ground in a rising flood."

Abraham Lincoln was also great in character. His sympathies were broad. He was a kindly man, who carried in his own heart the grief and anxiety of millions, but his sense of humor relieved the tensions when the days were darkest. Fairness and generosity were among his unflinching qualities. He was patient, yet firm, and was masterful in dealing with both supporters and opponents. He was disliked by many politicians of his day but was respected and admired by common people throughout the world. Even today, almost a century after Lincoln's death, his name is known in practically all countries of the world.

The American people are fortunate in having, as national heroes, men whose greatness depended upon qualities of character as well as upon intellectual achievements. It is hard to find inspiration in the activities of one whose footsteps we



Walter E. Myer

could not hope to follow, whatever our efforts might be. It would be discouraging for us to attempt to model ourselves after an acknowledged genius, but the qualities which we honor in Washington and Lincoln are such as anyone may develop and build into his own personality.

Each reasonably endowed person may train his judgment and so add to his equipment of facts that he will, in the main, act sensibly. Each one may be honest. Each one may train himself in courage and loyalty. Each one may grow in human sympathy and magnanimity. These are qualities which will make for popularity and success.



GALERIES LAFAYETTE, Paris's largest department store. Counters in France have plenty of merchandise, but the majority of people in that country cannot afford to buy much because of high prices.

France Is Working Hard

North Atlantic Pact Ally Faces Tremendous Job in Building Her Defenses and in Raising Living Standards

NOW back in Paris after his recent trip to the United States, Premier Rene Pleven of France is energetically directing the strengthening of the French Republic. During his stay in this country, Mr. Pleven assured the American people that France can be depended on to do her part in making the North Atlantic alliance a strong barrier against Communist aggression.

"France is your ally and not just a fair-weather friend," Premier Pleven told Americans. "We are allies and will remain allies."

Before Mr. Pleven visited the United States there had been considerable doubt in some quarters over the dependability of France as an ally. Many U. S. leaders had said all along that France's size and geographical location in western Europe made it necessary for her to play a leading role in the North Atlantic defense forces being organized under General Eisenhower. Many other Americans had felt, however, that France was dragging her feet in rearming.

Most of these doubts about France were set to rest by Mr. Pleven. He made plain that his country is carrying out strong positive measures to strengthen itself in face of the Communist threat.

Military spending for 1951, already approved by the French Assembly, will total slightly more than 2 billion dollars. That is almost double what was spent in 1949 and more than a 75 per cent increase over 1950. At present French troops total about 600,000 men, and there will be 900,000 men under arms by 1953.

The U. S. is giving more aid to France in its rearmament program than to any other member of the North Atlantic group. During the present year our government will give France almost 2½ billion dollars' worth of arms and equipment to help build up her forces.

At the same time France has agreed to the idea of having German troops in a North Atlantic Army on the ratio of one German unit for every five in the total force. This represents quite a concession for the French who have been invaded by German armies twice in the past 40 years and who therefore do not want the Germans to get strong enough to attack them again.

Equally important with the military steps France is taking are measures to increase industrial production. The country has been greatly helped in its

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United States Defense Set-up

The Leaders Who Oversee Our Nation's Massive Military Preparedness Effort

IT TAKES a big team of federal agencies and officials to handle our nation's defense effort. Many long-established offices and bureaus are receiving added responsibilities. Moreover, a number of new agencies have been set up to meet the growing problems connected with our rearmament drive.

On page 2 of this paper is a chart which shows the nation's key defense and mobilization officials—those who head the armed forces, the production effort, economic control measures, and civilian defense activities. This chart traces a "chain of command," starting with President Harry Truman and working down through the men who carry out his orders and instructions. It tells who is responsible to whom.

President Truman, pictured at the top of the chart, is director of the entire preparedness program. Responsibility for the whole vast operation rests finally on his shoulders. In peace or war, he is Commander in Chief of the armed forces, and head of the executive branch of the United States government.

The U. S. Presidency has been called "the toughest job in the world." In order to handle it, Mr. Truman must work through a number of helpers and advisers. So far as the preparedness effort is concerned, these helpers fall into two main groups: First, there are the officials who direct our fighting forces of the land, sea, and air. Second, there are the men who must deal with "home front" problems—production, economic controls, and the like.

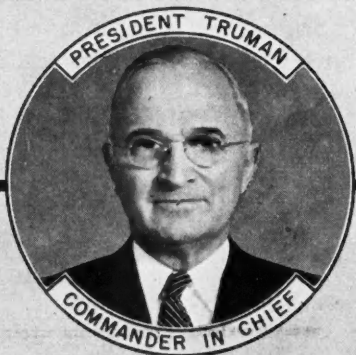
Department of Defense. The eight key men in the military field are pictured on the right-hand side of the chart. They run the Defense Department, which includes all our armed services. The President turns to them when he wants advice on military

(Continued on page 2)



DEMOCRACY'S ANSWER—strong defenses against Communist aggression

LEADERS OF OUR NATION'S DEFENSE PROGRAM



ON THE CIVILIAN FRONT

CHARLES E. WILSON
Mobilization DirectorMILLARD CALDWELL
Civilian Defense BossERIC JOHNSTON
Economic StabilizerWM. H. HARRISON
Defense Production ChiefMICHAEL DI SALLE
Price ControllerCYRUS CHING
Wage AdjusterON THE MILITARY FRONT
(Department of Defense)GEORGE C. MARSHALL
Secretary of DefenseFRANK PACE
Secretary of the ArmyFRANCIS P. MATTHEWS
Secretary of the NavyTHOMAS K. FINLETTER
Secretary of the Air Force

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

GEN. OMAR BRADLEY
ChairmanGEN. J. LAWTON COLLINS
Army ChiefADM. FORREST SHERMAN
Navy ChiefGEN. HOYT VANDENBERG
Air Force Chief

THE DEFENSE PICTURE changes almost daily. After this chart was drawn, Arthur Flemming was given his new post. It is reported that Cyrus Ching may soon resign.

Defense Chiefs

(Concluded from page 1)

problems, and they are the men who must see that his orders concerning the fighting forces are carried out.

Heading the department is *Secretary of Defense George Marshall*. His authority over the U. S. armed services is second only to that of President Truman. He gets his instructions directly from the Chief Executive.

Ranking just below Marshall, and responsible to him, are the civilian heads of the three armed services. They are *Frank Pace, Jr., Secretary of the Army; Francis Matthews, Secretary of the Navy; and Thomas Finletter, Secretary of the Air Force*. These men confer, sometimes individually and sometimes as a group, with Mr. Marshall. They tell him about the needs of their own branches of the fighting forces, and they receive and carry out his orders.

When one of these three men—Army Secretary Pace, for example—gets instructions from Defense Secretary Marshall, he calls in the *military commander* for his branch of the serv-

ice. In Mr. Pace's agency, the highest ranking military officer is *General Lawton Collins, Army Chief of Staff*.

Pace and Collins, with perhaps a few assistants and advisers sitting in, talk over any task that is assigned to the Army. Finally, when Secretary Pace reaches a decision on how the job should be done, General Collins issues the military orders that will put this decision into effect.

Similar procedures are followed by the Navy and the Air Force. In these two organizations, the top military commanders, who advise the civilian secretaries and carry out their orders, are: *Admiral Forrest Sherman, Chief of Naval Operations; and General Hoyt Vandenberg, Air Force Chief of Staff*.

Besides conferring with the civilian chiefs of their agencies, the three military commanders meet with one another. They do this because it is absolutely necessary for the plans and activities of all our armed services to fit well together. For instance, the present Korean conflict is not an Army war, a Navy war, or an Air Force war; it is a struggle in which all the forces must pool their efforts.

When General Collins, Admiral Sherman, and General Vandenberg

hold meetings, they are joined by a fourth officer—*General Omar Bradley*. He outranks the other three, and presides over their sessions. As a group, these four top military men are known as the *Joint Chiefs of Staff*. As chairman of the Joint Chiefs, General Bradley is the nation's highest-ranking military commander. One of his big jobs is to advise Secretary of Defense Marshall on the handling of all our fighting forces.

Civilian agencies. During the last several months, it has become clear that we need special officials and bureaus in order to get the home front organized for the defense program. Our military forces require the thorough-going support of the civilian population. Factories must turn out great quantities of war goods. In some instances, output of civilian supplies must be limited in order to make way for military needs. Also, American communities must be prepared to take care of themselves in the event of enemy air attacks.

To a large extent, these home-front programs have been put in the hands of the men who are pictured on the left side of our chart. Shown at the top are: *Charles Wilson, Director of*

Defense Mobilization and Millard Caldwell, Civil Defense Administrator. Both these officials serve directly under President Truman.

Mr. Caldwell, former governor of Florida, has the job of getting our home front ready to cope with any wartime disaster. His Federal Civil Defense Administration is helping the states and local communities in preparations to protect themselves in case of bombing or other forms of attack. Unless such preparations are made, enemy bombers might throw our nation into chaos if war occurs. Air raids might kill vast numbers of Americans, seriously disrupt our military production effort, and endanger our chances for victory.

Civil defense activities include the recruiting of air-raid wardens and rescue teams, preparation of bomb shelters, and so on. Most of the job is being left to state and local governments. However, the federal government is giving help and advice, and it will pay part of the expenses of civil defense work.

Turning now to Mobilization Director Wilson, we find that he has a double task: speeding the output of war materials, and steadying the nation's economic system.

Wilson and his staff supervise the defense activities of numerous agencies in the regular government departments. They work with officials of the Interior Department in an effort to increase the production of minerals, with Commerce Department agencies and the Interstate Commerce Commission on transportation matters, with the Labor Department on manpower supply, and so on.

The three men directly responsible for helping Charles Wilson to carry out his far-flung activities are: William Henry Harrison, head of the Defense Production Administration; Eric Johnston, chief of the Economic Stabilization Agency; and Arthur Flemming, chairman of the Manpower Policy Committee. (Flemming is pictured separately, on this page.) These men may soon be joined by a transportation chief.

Mr. Harrison, defense production boss, has great power over the nation's industries. He, and the officials that work under his direction, can prevent manufacturers from using scarce and vital substances in the production of non-essential goods. They have already ordered severe restrictions on the use of copper, aluminum, rubber, and certain other materials. Harrison's organization also can require any factory or business firm to give special attention to orders for defense goods, even though this means a delay in work on civilian items.

Mr. Flemming heads a committee of high-ranking government officials whose agencies are particularly concerned with manpower problems. The Selective Service Director, for instance, is one member of the group. It is the job of Flemming and his committee to advise Charles Wilson on how the nation can best fill its needs for workers and fighting men.

The other key member of Charles Wilson's team is Eric Johnston, whose responsibility is to curb the rapid rise of prices and wages. The pressure of production would force both up without federal controls.

Eric Johnston is trying to put the price-and-wage twins under control. His main assistants have been Michael DiSalle, Director of Price Stabilization; and Cyrus Ching, Chairman of the Wage Stabilization Board. As this paper goes to press, it is reported that Mr. Ching will soon resign, and that someone else will become wage chief.

Johnston and DiSalle have already put price limits on a number of items that consumers must buy. Restrictions have also been placed on wage and salary increases. Cyrus Ching, Johnston's right-hand man in the salary field, has headed the nine-member advisory board which includes representatives of management, of labor, and of the general public.

Labor leaders are displeased with the defense setup. They say it is controlled by businessmen. To meet their criticism, economic-stabilizer Eric Johnston appointed George Harrison, of the American Federation of Labor Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, as his assistant. Harrison's appointment, however, has not satisfied union officials who believe that one of their members should have a more important position in the defense program.



Arthur Flemming



PARIS as seen from the towers of Notre Dame Cathedral. The river is the Seine.

The Beauty of Paris

There Is Something for Everyone to Enjoy in the Great French Capital, an Ever-Changing Yet Timeless City

BEAUTIFUL Paris is the one city in Europe that appeals to almost all Americans. Everyone finds something he likes in the great French capital: the magnificent architecture of the city's buildings and the broad, tree-lined avenues; or, perhaps, a tasty dinner of roast duck with orange sauce in a quaint restaurant along a narrow, secluded street; or, maybe, just the Parisians themselves.

Much of the atmosphere of Paris, in fact, is due to the ways of its 3½ million people—especially the ways of the taxi drivers. Adventure really begins in a taxi. The driver—usually with a slouchy cap—rushes pell-mell through the town, honking his horn all the time. He leans out to shake a fist and shout at other drivers who get in the way. You expect a crash any minute. Actually, there are very few; the Paris accident rate is quite low.

Along the lovely Seine river, which winds through the town, you find other types of Parisians. There are old men with beards, smoking pipes, and dangling long poles into the water in a leisurely effort to catch fish. There are elderly women, with shawls about their shoulders, selling books and old maps from open stalls. In the open market places, you will see the French housewife shopping for meat, bread, and vegetables. There is almost certain to be a vigorous argument between seller and buyer over the price.

Along the broad avenues, you find the modern shops with perfumes, glittering jewelry, and the smart, stylish clothes for women which have made Paris famous. Yet you note that most of the Parisians—the pretty stenographers and clerks in the stores—dress quite plainly. This is partly because the Parisians are a thrifty people; also high prices have kept many from buying new things since the war. The stylish clothes are for foreigners.

You find the artists of Paris in Montmartre, an old section atop one of the city's few hills. Wearing smocks, with berets perched on their heads, they paint at easels set up in the narrow, crooked streets. Some are French; others are Americans, Englishmen, Italians, to mention only a few nationalities represented in this famous section of the city. For years, artists from all parts of the world

have tried to capture the charm of Montmartre's old homes, painted in reds, greens, or faded pastels.

Somewhere along your walk, you are sure to run across a small circus. There are many of them, set up in parks or along the street. If you like cats, you will find plenty of them. Every shopkeeper has one; there probably are more cats in Paris than in any other European city.

As you wander through the city, you pass by beautiful buildings and cross numerous wooded, flowered parks. There is the mammoth opera house, said to be the largest in the world. There is Notre Dame Cathedral, one of the world's finest examples of Gothic architecture. There is the great Louvre gallery.

There are many other sights to see in Paris. Along with the old, majestic buildings, there are modern structures. And you may like the ultra-modern French automobile, the Citroën, which rivals American cars in styling. And, of course, there are the gay sidewalk cafes where people sip coffee or "cokes" in the late afternoon.

All of the features that Paris has, the old and the new, combine to make it one of the most interesting and beautiful cities of the world. Ever changing, yet timeless, it never ceases to fascinate visitors.

Science News

When Charles F. Blair, the American pilot, recently set a new record for the New York-to-London hop, he flew his own converted Mustang fighter plane, completing the transatlantic flight in 7 hours, 48 minutes. Most of his trip was made at 37,000 feet so that he had to use an oxygen mask.

The flier carried an automatic pilot, three radio transmitters, survival gear, direction finders, and a special compass for high altitude flying, as well as extra fuel.

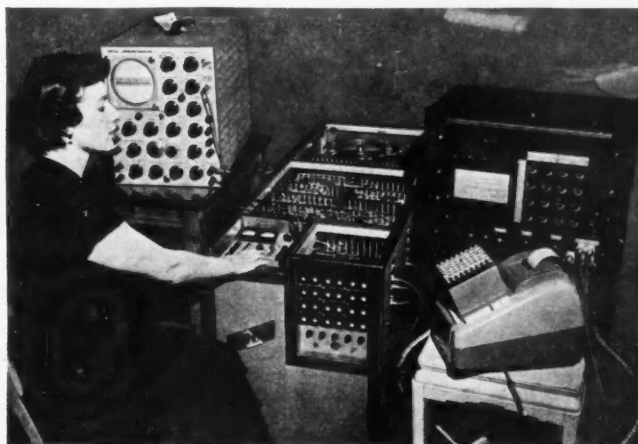
The U. S. textile industry is growing by leaps and bounds. A number of new man-made materials will soon be on the market, and the production of nylon is expected to increase 125 percent during the next year. A big factory, now under construction in Kinston, North Carolina, will make a synthetic called Fiber V which greatly resembles wool. A factory in Alabama will turn out Chemstrand—also a wool substitute. Another man-made fiber called Dynel is already being used to make blankets.

The Navy's newest fighter plane, the XF4D, was given its first tests at Muroc, California, recently. It is designed to take off carrier decks for a rapid climb to high altitudes. In appearance, the speedy craft looks almost as much like a guided missile as it does an airplane. It has swept-back wings, no tail, and a tricycle landing gear. The XF4D is designed to intercept an enemy craft before it has time to attack a ship or ground installation.

Federal Reserve Banks have the job of setting aside worn-out money. Local banks collect the bills and send them in packages of 100 to Federal Reserve offices. There individual employees count the bills to see that there are actually 100 in each package.

From now on the counting may not be quite so difficult. Inventors at the National Bureau of Standards have developed a machine to do the job. Packaged bills are fed into the machine where a blast of air flips them. As each bill is flipped it breaks a beam of light. An electronic device registers the number of times the beam is broken. If a package does not break the beam exactly 100 times it is thrown into a rejection basket.

—By HAZEL L. ELDRIDGE.



LIGHTNING CALCULATOR. Smaller than most of the amazing electronic calculating machines, this new device is used at Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, N. J., to help do the complicated figuring involved in the designing of ships.

The Story of the Week

Unavoidable Delay

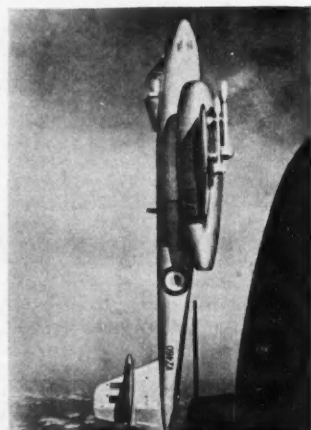
We are confident that our readers know why they have failed to receive one or more recent issues of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER on schedule. At the peak of the recent tie-up on the railroads, the Post Office in Washington, D. C., refused to accept ours or other publications. We regret this interruption in service, but the situation was one over which we and other publishers had no control.

Aid for India?

India is stricken with famine. Because of crop failures, there is insufficient food in the land; thousands are starving. In this crisis, India has appealed to this country to come to her rescue by sending grain. The Asian nation wants to buy it, using long-term credit.

For several weeks the Administration has been considering the request. India would like about 200 million tons of grain, costing about 200 million dollars. Whether we send any or all of this quantity must be decided by Congress.

The Administration wants to help India, but opposition has been expressed by those who believe India has not supported this country suffi-



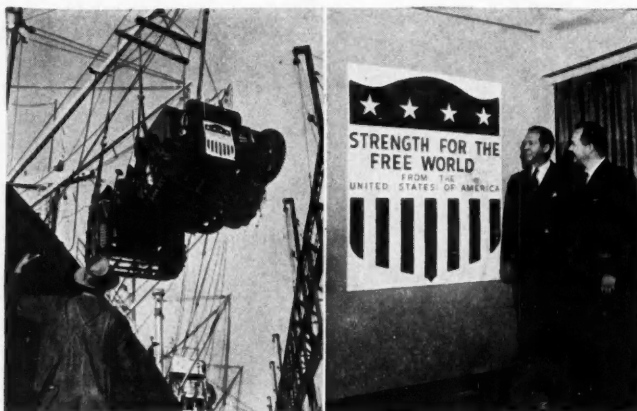
STRAIGHT UP goes this British Gloster Meteor twin-jet fighter. The plane is now the standard fighter for Britain and for other North Atlantic Pact nations.

ciently in moves against Communist China. They reason in this way:

"India failed to cooperate with us fully in our stand against Chinese aggression. Now that she is in trouble, India wants our help. It might be the kind thing to do to help her, but it would be better if we sent aid only after she agrees to cooperate with us in the future in stopping communism."

Those who take a contrary view argue thus: "It is true that India did not agree with our policy in regard to China. But this is no time to hold that against her. Nor is it the time to drive any bargain on future foreign policy. India faces a crisis, and it would certainly put this country in a poor light if we were to adopt a chip-on-the-shoulder, unrelenting attitude now. We must act generously, in a humanitarian way."

Among the prominent Americans who urge aid to stricken India is for-



ON THE RIGHT top officials, who direct the European Recovery Plan, read the plan's new slogan, "Strength for the Free World—from the United States of America." On the left, a jeep labeled with the slogan is loaded for shipment to southeast Asia. There the jeep will be used in health projects.

mer Republican President Herbert Hoover. We should send food to India not as a matter of politics, but as a matter of Christianity, he says.

Foreign Draft Policies

One of the most vigorously debated questions of the day is whether this country should draft 18-year-olds for military service. Until now, 19 has been the minimum draft age in the United States, and the term of service has been 21 months. At what age do other countries call up their youth, and for how long?

According to the Defense Department, these are the answers for a number of countries:

France, like this country, conscripts its young men at 19. They are in service for 18 months.

Belgium drafts at 20, for one year.

England drafts at 18, for two years.

Italy calls up its men at 21, for 15 months.

Soviet Union conscripts youths at the age of 18, for three years. However, if a Russian boy has not finished his secondary education at the age of 18, he is not called until he is 19.

Communist China drafts youths at the earliest age of all—16—and keeps them in service for an indefinite period.

Great Skater

Next week-end Dick Button, the 21-year-old Harvard University student who has won the world's figure skating championship every year since 1948, will be trying to capture that title a fourth time. In a contest at Milan, Italy, he will be competing against expert skaters from 12 countries, but most sports writers predict he will again take the world's crown.

Button's great reputation is backed up by a long series of winning performances. In addition to the three straight world titles, he won top rating in the 1948 Olympics, and, earlier this month, he captured the national senior men's figure skating championship for the sixth time, at Seattle, Washington.

The *Associated Press*, in an article describing his "unbeatable" Seattle performance, described Dick as "king of the flashing blades." The article reported, in part: "... he swooped

from one end of the shiny surface to the other with a dazzling display of triple-turn leaps, splits, glides, and tip-toe spins."

Dick, a native of Englewood, New Jersey, started skating at the age of 12. Among his many trophies is the Sullivan award, given annually to the country's outstanding amateur athlete, which he won last year.

At Milan this week-end, Button will be among 60 competing skaters. Great Britain is sending the largest delegation, 30 men and women, including judges and coaches. Japan, with at least one skater in the contest, will be represented for the first time since World War II.

Louder Voice of America

Should the Voice of America, which broadcasts daily to foreign nations, be expanded? Is it doing as good a job as it might in "selling" America's way of life to other peoples and in combatting Communist propaganda against our country? Should the Voice of America agency, now operated by the State Department, be made into an independent organization?

These questions have frequently been raised and they are being dis-

cussed by many Americans at the present time.

General Eisenhower, supreme commander of the North Atlantic Army, expresses his belief that "the United States needs a very, very much stronger (foreign) information service."

Senator William Benton, of Connecticut, who formerly was an Assistant Secretary of State and was in charge of the Voice of America, agrees with General Eisenhower. He urges not only that additional funds be provided for expanding the Voice, but he thinks that this agency should be separated from the State Department and placed on an independent basis.

The State Department would welcome more money with which to carry on its foreign broadcasting program, but it opposes Senator Benton's suggestion that the Voice agency be removed from its control.

Congress will study and debate this whole issue, and then arrive at a decision.

Young Asian Farmers

As part of this country's drive to stop the spread of communism, the government plans to bring hundreds of young farmers from southeast Asia to this country for training in American agricultural methods. The special training is designed to raise farm production in Asia, improve the standard of living there, and thus ease the unrest on which communism thrives.

Among the American farm programs to be studied by young Asians are the 4-H clubs, made up of young farm people. When the Asian youths return to their native lands, it is hoped that they will set up their own 4-H clubs.

The Economic Cooperation Administration, which originated the idea and will be responsible for bringing the Asians here, said the program might start this summer. If it does go into effect as planned, about 200 Asian students a year will be brought here. They will come from Indonesia, India, Burma, Thailand, the Philippines and Formosa, according to present plans.



BIG BUSINESS and small. L. M. Giannini (left), President of the Bank of America—which has over 4 million depositors and total resources of 6 billion dollars, compares notes with James Gould, president of Junior Achievement Bank of San Francisco. The Junior Achievement Bank has 39 depositors and about \$2,000 in resources. It is teaching its teen-age executives valuable lessons in business management.



SUBZERO WEATHER brought these elk from the Cascade Range in Washington's mountains down into open fields near Yakima. State game officials are feeding the animals to keep them from foraging on nearby ranches.

First stop on the students' journey will be Honolulu, where the young Asians will study the English language and take agricultural extension work at the University of Hawaii, for periods ranging from 10 weeks to three months. They will stay in Hawaii for a longer or shorter period depending on their command of our language, and then continue on to the United States.

In this country they will study a number of special farm programs, including 4-H clubs, meet American farm youth, and otherwise observe our agricultural life. The students will remain here three or four months before returning to their own nations to put their knowledge to use.

Brotherhood Week

This is *Brotherhood Week*, sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews to promote understanding and unity of all our people—no matter what their religion, race, or national origin. Every American is being urged to follow these simple rules today, tomorrow, and always:

1. Remember that what you think about certain racial and religious groups may be mere prejudices. Try at all times to find out the other fellow's point of view in order to break down opinions which are untrue.

2. Refrain from calling any persons by names which are used as terms of reproach.

3. When you hear people making slurring remarks about any of our fellow Americans, speak out against the practice. Condemn every attempt to stir up prejudice.

4. Study the meaning of democracy, and practice the Golden Rule in all your dealings with other people, regardless of their race, nationality, and creed. Treat each individual as you would want him to treat you.

New Amendment?

Since the Constitution first became this country's basic law in 1789, 21 amendments or changes have been adopted. Will a 22nd amendment be added soon? Some political observers say that a law to limit the President's total stay in office to eight years may become a part of the Constitution in the near future.

The lawmakers of some 27 states have already voted in favor of this amendment. Another nine states

must give their approval to the measure before it becomes the nation's law.

Changes in the Constitution are suggested either by a two-thirds vote of each House of Congress, or by two thirds of the state legislatures. Then, three fourths of the states in the Union must ratify or approve the proposed amendment before it becomes law.

Throughout most of our history, Presidents did not serve more than two terms. This was a custom begun by the country's first President, George Washington. However, the late Franklin Roosevelt broke the long-standing tradition when he was elected for a third term in 1940, and then again a fourth time in 1944.

Because of Roosevelt's many election victories, some political leaders backed a movement to make a constitutional limit on the number of years a citizen can hold the nation's highest office. Under the leadership of prominent Republicans, Congress passed the amendment which is now being considered by the states.

Canada Acts

Canada is cooperating closely with this country to counter a possible air assault on the North American continent. Our northern neighbor is helping us maintain a screen of radar stations which are to alert fighter aircraft should a possible enemy approach our shores. Furthermore, Canada is building up her army, navy, and air force, and is actively helping form the North Atlantic Army.

Canadian Defense Minister Brooke Claxton has announced a five-billion-dollar defense program. The money will be spent to raise Canada's navy strength to 100 ships, her air force to 40 squadrons, and to add more than a division of soldiers to her army. The naval increase is particularly important in the strategy of Western Hemisphere defense, since British, Canadian, and U. S. vessels work together in anti-submarine and escort work.

Canada also is helping the 11 other North Atlantic Treaty countries in a number of ways. It has already been announced that at least a brigade (5,000 to 6,000 Canadians) will go to

Europe this summer to serve under General Eisenhower in the new international army. Canada is contributing quantities of materiel, too. In December she shipped enough equipment for a whole division to the Netherlands, and she is preparing to ship sufficient field guns for a Luxembourg artillery regiment.

Our neighbor to the north also is helping train personnel for the North Atlantic force. Fliers from Belgium, France, Italy, the Netherlands, and Norway, and army officers from a number of democracies are now studying at Canadian military schools.

The people of Switzerland will not be viewing any television programs for a while. To begin with, the government has decided that the country's mountains would make reception poor. Then, too, most of the programs would have to come from other countries, and it is feared that these lands might take advantage of the opportunity to feed propaganda into Switzerland.

Newsmaker

PRIME MINISTER Rene Plevin of France is striving to build up his country's defenses. A short time ago, he met with President Truman in Washington to discuss plans for working together and for strengthening the democratic nations of the world. The President and other American officials praised Plevin for his strong support of policies aimed at stopping communism in Asia and in Europe.

The French Prime Minister has headed his nation's government since last July. He also leads one of the political parties in France, known as the *Democratic and Socialist Union of the Resistance*. Plevin has been working hard to unite his party with other French groups to fight the strong Communist organizations in that country.

The energetic Chief of State, who is almost 50 years old, is often described as "one of the most forceful personalities in France today."

After studying law and government in French universities, he took a job as a laborer in Canada. In two years, he rose to become an executive of the firm for which he worked. Returning to France, he served as managing director for several business firms, and traveled to England and America.

When France was drawn into World War II, Plevin was sent to the United States by his government to get air support for French forces. In 1940, when France fell to the Germans, he joined the armies of Charles de Gaulle, and continued the fight from France's colonies in Africa.

Toward the end of the war, Plevin did much to give France's colonies a greater voice than before in managing their own affairs. When a new French government was set up at the end of the conflict, he directed the country's finances, and later was put in charge of the national defense program.



Rene Plevin

THE LIGHTER SIDE

Customer: "But if you are selling these watches below cost, where does your profit come from?"

New Clerk: "From repairing them."

Butcher: "I can't give you any more credit, sir. Your bill is bigger than it should be."



"Here's 60 cents, Dad. How about giving me two of those dollars you say are worth only 30 cents now?"

Customer: "I know that. Just make it out for what it should be and I'll pay it."

Kat: "So you and Dan are getting married? I thought it was a mere flirtation."

Kit: "So did he."

"Ha, ha," laughed the recruit. "You can't fool me. I know they have potato peeling machines in the Army." "Yes," said the sergeant, "and you're the latest model."

"I've tried a dozen times to give my dog away, but no one will have him."

"That's not the way to get rid of a dog. Ask \$25 for him!"

An explosion occurred in a milliner's shop last week, and hats were scattered all over the place. In fact, it looked just as though a customer had been in.

France Helps to Strengthen North Atlantic Alliance

(Concluded from page 1)

economic upswing by aid given by the United States under the European Recovery Program. Today production is 32 per cent higher than it was in 1938. Steel output is up 40 per cent, and coal and electricity production, too, are higher than they were before World War II.

These military and industrial developments represent encouraging progress for France and would seem to go far toward making her a strong, effective member of the North Atlantic group of nations. Yet there are a number of disturbing factors which might alter the picture.

One of these is the war in Indo-China. That Asiatic land has long been considered an important part of the French holdings abroad. During World War II the people of Indo-China became anxious to rule themselves. France granted them a considerable degree of independence, but Communists used the nationalistic yearnings of the people to stir up a war with the French.

Five-Year Struggle

That conflict, now going into its fifth year, has tied up the best combat troops of the French army. The French feel that they cannot pull out their troops, for if they did, it would be an open invitation for the Communists to take over. Opposition to the Communists in Indo-China is as vital to the security of the democratic world, say the French, as is the opposition of UN forces to Communist troops in Korea.

U. S. leaders are keenly aware that France's contributions to the North Atlantic army will be lessened if she has to send additional troops to Indo-China. Consequently we are helping the French in that Asiatic country by sending them planes, guns, and tanks. The outlook there has brightened in recent weeks, but even so the struggle is likely to drag on for some time.

Another factor which might hinder France in carrying out its defense job in Europe is the existence of a sizable group of Communists within France itself. In the last general election in 1946 the Communists proved to be the strongest single party in the country. Since France has many political parties, the Communists did not have a majority by any means, but they did poll close to 30 per cent of the popular vote.

Today the Communists in France, it is generally agreed, are not nearly so strong as they were in 1946. They have not been allowed in the Cabinet since 1947, and in the past year they have been excluded from many other key posts in the government.

Nonetheless, they represent a threat. Almost one third of the membership of the Assembly—the nation's main lawmaking body—are Communists. They control one of France's big labor federations and hold thousands of local offices in towns and cities throughout the country. They have thrown every stumbling block they could in the way of French rearmament, and in case of war with Russia they would undoubtedly form a "fifth column" and aid the Soviet Union.

The problem of communism at home would be much easier to solve, it is felt, if the French government could succeed in raising living standards. The average per capita income in France is only \$482 a year. In the United States it is \$1,453. On his recent visit Premier Plevin told Americans that communism in France could be defeated by bettering the lot of the average workingman.

To raise living standards, though, is not going to be easy. Behind the hard times that so many French families are experiencing today is the destruction and economic exhaustion of World War II. After the war, France found hundreds of towns and cities flattened, roads and highways worn out, factory



ALL KINDS of vehicles can be seen in European countries, where automobiles are too expensive for the average family. The old-timer in the picture is an 1893 automobile which is merely on display. The little fellow's car was built by his father.

equipment broken down. It takes a long time to recover fully from such a catastrophe. Under such conditions it is little wonder that most French families find it hard to make both ends meet.

Take, for example, the Boucher family who live in an industrial city in northern France. A worker in a textile factory, Henri Boucher, the father, earns about \$45 a month. Since the Bouchers have two small children, they receive a family allowance from the government. Also Mrs. Boucher works part of the time as a seamstress. Yet the family's total income from all sources is not more than \$65 a month.

A large part of the income goes for food. Prices vary a good deal, but in the city where the Bouchers live the cost of such things as butter, coffee, and eggs are about the same as in the United States. However, it must be remembered that the Bouchers' income is far less than that of the average U. S. family. Consequently, food expenditures take up a much greater part of the family budget than they do in this country.

It is seldom that the Bouchers buy a new suit or dress. Mrs. Boucher makes the children's clothing, and with careful patching makes her own clothing and that of her husband last a long time.

The only way in which the Bouchers might seem to have a distinct advantage over an American family is in what they spend for housing. For the three rooms which they occupy in a large, old house shared with several other families they pay about five dollars a month. The government has kept rents low in France. However, the rooms are old and dilapidated, and no major repairs have been made for years. With rents so low, little is done to keep houses in good shape.

The taxation system in France is complicated, but it, too, adds to the living costs of the Bouchers. There are numerous kinds of taxes—on matches, sugar, salt, etc. Still higher taxes are going to be needed to finance the rearmament program.

The Bouchers cannot afford an automobile, of course. On Sunday afternoons they sometimes take a walk in the park and along a major avenue. As they pass the shops, they see all

kinds of things in the windows—household appliances, radios, and so on. Goods are available if one has money to buy them. The Bouchers do not.

Henri Boucher sometimes recalls the days before World War II and reflects on how little progress he has made. While he takes home many more francs in his pay envelope at the present time than he did back in those days, prices of food and certain other things have risen so much that everyday existence is no less a struggle than it was then.

As he walks down the street with his family, Henri sees a Communist slogan painted on a wall. He doesn't give it a second look but it does recall to him the period right after World War II when the Communists tried to enlist him in the party. They told him they were working for peace and a higher standard of living. Henri was somewhat attracted to their program, and he attended a few party meetings.

Dropped Out of Party

However, Henri is a shrewd individual, and he soon saw that the Communists were simply trying to get themselves into power by making false promises to him and other war-weary French people. He dropped out of the party, as did many other early recruits. He knows that the Communists are not going to help him, and he isn't convinced that any other party is.

Many French families—including most of the farm population—are better off than the Bouchers. Many others—government and office workers, for example—are not getting along so well in many instances. Yet the problems with which the Bouchers are struggling in their daily existence are the ones with which most French families have to contend in greater or less degree today.

The French government is trying to better the lot of its people, yet there is no easy solution. Increasing production and trade are helping, but continued patience and hard work are going to be required. If the living standard can be raised, though, Premier Plevin thinks that the threat of communism will vanish and there will be no doubt about France's ability to do her share for the democracies.



The "Voice of Democracy" Speaks

Freedom's Meaning Is Stressed in Four Winning Essays of Student Contest

The December 11 issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER carried a story on the 1950 Voice of America high school essay contest sponsored by the National Association of Broadcasters, the U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce, and the Radio-Television Manufacturers Association. More than 1½ million students who participated in the contest wrote essays entitled "I Speak for Democracy." Each of the four winners received a \$500 college scholarship and a one-week, all-expense trip to Washington, D. C., and Williamsburg, Virginia. The winners were:

Robert A. Burnett, of St. Mary's High School, St. Louis, Missouri; Ricardo Romulo, of St. John's College High School, Washington, D. C. (Ricardo's father is the Philippine Minister to the United Nations); Marcia Anne Harmon, of St. Bernadine's High School, San Bernardino, California; Norita Newbrough, of Baton Rouge High School, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

We are reprinting the winning essays in slightly condensed form:

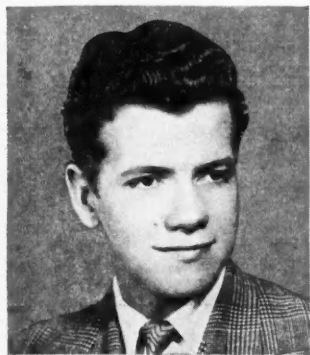
★ ★ ★

DO YOU know who I am? I am the voice of democracy.

Listen! Listen, America! Listen, citizen John Doe, to the beginning of my life's story.

"We, we the people." Not, mind you, we the royal elect; or we, the sovereign king; but "we, the people." Listen, citizen Doe, those words place my very life in your hands. I'm your personal responsibility.

A lot of people are trying to tell you today that democracy has weak spots. Some of that's true. I've made my mistakes, but those mistakes are never too big, and never too many. My blessings outnumber my weak spots a



Robert Burnett

thousand to one. That's why I speak for democracy.

Those blessings don't just happen. You can't have rights unless you take the duties with them. And that's what a democracy is—a mixture of both—rights and duties. So next time, John Doe, you say: "I've got my rights," then save a little breath to add, "but I've got my duties, too."

Just what do I do for you, John Doe? What does democracy give you? Let's take a good look.

Anybody ever come to your house early in the morning and take you away because you had a different idea

from that of the President? Any American cop ever invade your home without a warrant? I don't think so. And here's something even bigger, John Doe. You can walk into the church you want to! You're free to speak and write what you think! You can choose the kind of government you want!

If I ever die, it won't be a natural death. Because you'll have to kill me, John Doe—with negligence, with laziness, with indifference. Don't vote! Don't serve on juries! Don't support good men! Then I'll die.

So John, start to use me today, for tomorrow may be too late. Don't you ever forget it, citizen Doe, democracy is your personal responsibility.

—By ROBERT BURNETT.

★ ★ ★

I SPEAK for democracy—because I hail from the Philippines where my forefathers, generations ago, did not know it, and now, thanks to America, my country is democracy's outpost in Asia. Because I know what democracy has meant to my country in progress, better standards of living, unity, happiness, and contentment. Because my people were benighted and enslaved until democracy came.

Here in America, democracy is the living mortar of the American people's unity. It belongs to all of us, even to those who are its guests, because democracy has many interpretations within the pattern of our daily lives.

In this land wherever and however religious services are held, democracy means the right of every man to seek out God in his own way. Democracy means more than casting a vote and abiding by the will of the majority. America's system of government demands of every citizen a deep sense of personal responsibility and vigilance.



Ricardo Romulo

Democracy has made America a land of opportunity—where energy, enthusiasm and an economy of free enterprise have converted its natural wealth into the highest standard of living on earth. This year, Americans at work will earn more than 200 billion dollars. But behind this enormous national pay-check lies a vital meaning of democracy—the right of every man to choose his own trade. And whatever his trade or profession, here every worker has the chance of becoming the boss. For free enterprise is the economic dividend of democracy.



Marcia Anne Harmon

To each of us democracy conveys a different personal meaning. But to all it means freedom, opportunity, and happiness.

Thus I have spoken for democracy because I want to live a useful, full life as a good citizen and because I want to die a free man.

—By RICARDO ROMULO.

★ ★ ★

WHO really should speak for democracy? That tall, graceful, alluring statue at the entrance of New York's harbor might represent democracy's case. Her famed sculptor would have her say: "Welcome to my home, a shrine of freedom. Oh you oppressed of other lands. My torch, burning brightly, symbolizes light for your paths, truth for your minds, and a promise of freedom for your God-given rights."

Or another symbol, the ballot-box, might speak for democracy in this way: "You choose me to secure for you the treasure of good laws, through legislation, initiative and referendum. I am your voice in proclaiming the good for all."

Then I realized the ballot-box was saying: "I am only your voice." And I realized it is the voice of youth who must bespeak democracy's worth. This is what youth would say:

"I speak for Democracy, because I want the freedom that democracy is. I want the right to such education as I am capable of receiving; the right to choose and pursue a career, to travel where I wish, to live as simply or as luxuriously as my income or taste indicates. I want the right to individuality, and accepting the good and discarding the evil. I want the right to expect that my life will have been of some value in the Creator's great plan. I want to worship God in my own faith.

"I do not want to be the henchman or stooge of some power-mad monster, and know only what he chooses to allow me to know, and do only what fits his purpose. Neither do I want to be the tool of greed, envy, or hate. I want to be true to myself and a vital part of my own democratic government—a government of which I, as much as any one person, am responsible. I want to accept that responsibility with intelligence and gratitude, and share in the work, the costs and the benefits of democracy."

Yes,—I speak for Democracy.

—By MARCIA ANNE HARMON.



Norita Newbrough

THE key phrase in understanding democracy is understanding and respecting the individual. Few of us have ever lived in a totalitarian state, but we have all seen the Nazi and the Fascist and the Bolshevik manifested in the emotional attitudes of individuals we have known in our home, school, and civic circles. They are the people who haven't learned their social lessons well. They are immature, as communist states and fascist states are immature. The ability to live democratically is the big test of an individual's maturity.

Wise people since time immemorial have stressed the word "individual." Men talked about his importance and are talking about it again, very loudly today, until sometimes some of us think that perhaps we have overdone our eloquence.

Yet look what has happened in countries where the individual has been underpaid. Look at the men who are willing to sell individual rights for a song about a party. Study the social and economic conditions which fostered their unconcern.

There are some people who say we are moving towards a totalitarian state. They say that democracy as we know it will give way to socialism, then to communism. They say that all government must move in a cycle.

Now maybe I'm wrong, but it seems to me we learned from history that only slavery makes anarchists of men and the anarchists eventually enslave themselves. But in a democracy people can never be slaves and can never be anarchists. So there goes your cycle.

We, the youth of America, have been told that the responsibility of building a better world is ours to shoulder. So now that we know what we're out to build, let's consider the different ground plans—communism and slavery on the one hand, democracy and freedom on the other. Then with the tools that God has given us, let's make our world a democracy.

—By NORITA NEWBROUGH.

Travelers on the Madrid-Lisbon highway are seeing castles come to life before their eyes these days. A number of the country's ancient castles have been remodeled for use as hotels and inns. Such things as huge fireplaces, patios, and subterranean rooms have been left untouched so that visitors may see them. Many of the castles, it is said, also contain priceless museum pieces.

Career for Tomorrow

Secretarial Work

TAKE a look at the "help wanted" advertisements in your local paper today. Perhaps half tell of openings for secretaries and stenographers. You'll notice the same thing if you look at the paper tomorrow, next week or next year, or if you look at papers from other cities.

Vocationally, this means that a person who knows shorthand and typing seldom has to look long for a job. True, most of the openings are for women, but men are in demand for some positions.

The basic subjects a stenographer or secretary must know are, of course, shorthand and typing. You can learn these either in high school or later in a business college. Wherever you take the subjects, see that you learn to be accurate. Inaccurate shorthand and messy typing are of little value.

In addition to the two basic subjects, a secretary must know English, grammar, and spelling, and he or she should have a sizable vocabulary. A college degree is helpful to a secretary, but it is not essential. A knowledge of such subjects as business law, business arithmetic, and elementary psychology, usually given by business schools, is also helpful but again it is not necessary. The broader a secretary's education is, of course, the better, whether the education be obtained through formal or informal channels.

As a secretary you will begin to get your real training when you take

your first job—and that training will continue so long as you are employed. Taking letters in shorthand and transcribing them on the typewriter will be but a small part of your work. Your principal job will probably be to keep your employer's office running smoothly. To do this you must get to know his business well. You must also learn to relieve him of annoying details without appearing to be presumptuous.

A pleasing personality is an important part of the secretary's qualifications. An employer wants his secretary to have a well-modulated voice, a neat appearance, and a friendly manner, for these qualities are a necessary business asset of the firm. Often the first person a visitor meets on going into an office is the secretary. A sullen "Hello" or a dowdy appearance may drive the visitor away.

A secretary's duties are varied. In addition to taking and transcribing letters, watching for business details to be done, and meeting persons who come into the office, the secretary may be called on to answer many letters without referring them to the employer, to keep some business records, help with research, supervise clerical employees, and do a wide variety of other jobs.

These varied duties are one of the advantages of work as a secretary. Another is the opportunity such a job offers for advancement. Secretaries are in an excellent position to learn the



NO OFFICE of any size can get along without a secretary

details and management of a business firm.

One of the main disadvantages of the work is that the secretary must always be responsive to another person's needs and whims. When the boss is cranky, the secretary must be careful not to offend him. When he wants a particular job done, the secretary must be ready to do it.

Salaries differ from place to place and according to one's experience. Beginners usually earn from \$25 to \$45 a week. Experienced secretaries earn from \$50 to \$100 a week.

A pamphlet discussing this field may be secured from the National Association and Council of Business Schools, 2601 16th Street, N. W., Washington 9, D. C. It is entitled "Secretaryship as a Career Field," and costs 10 cents.

—By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.

Study Guide

France

1. What doubts in regard to France were partly cleared up as a result of Premier Plevin's visit to the United States?

2. What is France doing to become a stronger member of the North Atlantic Alliance?

3. Why are the best French combat troops now stationed in Indo-China?

4. Discuss briefly the standing of the Communist Party in France.

5. Compare the average per capita income in France with that in the United States.

6. Why are living conditions in France unsatisfactory today even though industrial production is much higher now than it was before World War II?

7. Discuss the life of a typical French industrial worker and his family.

Discussion

1. Do you or do you not have confidence that France will be a strong and dependable ally? Explain your answer.

2. How do you feel about the financial assistance we are giving to that country?

Defense Chiefs

1. Into what two big groups can we divide the officials who assist President Truman in handling the preparedness program?

2. What office does George Marshall now hold? Name the three civilian officials who rank just below him.

3. Who are the highest-ranking military commanders for the three separate armed services?

4. Describe Omar Bradley's job.

5. In general, what are the duties of Charles Wilson and Millard Caldwell? To whom is each of these men directly responsible?

6. Tell of some of the powers that William Henry Harrison, defense production boss, has over the nation's industries.

7. Name the official to whom Michael Disalle, price chief, and Cyrus Ching, wage stabilizer, are directly responsible.

8. What important job in the defense setup does Arthur Flemming hold?

Miscellaneous

1. What prominent American recently urged aid to famine-stricken India?

2. At what age do the following nations draft their young men: England? France? Soviet Union?

3. What does Senator William Benton propose in regard to the Voice of America?

4. Describe the proposal to bring young Asian farmers here.

5. What would the proposed 22nd Amendment provide?

6. Briefly discuss the Canadian rearming effort.

7. Sketch the course of the French Revolution.

8. Describe some of the scenes you would see in visiting Paris.

9. Discuss some of the points made in the winning essays of the "Voice of Democracy" contest.

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Historical Backgrounds - - The French Revolution

PERHAPS no people watched the American colonists' revolt against British authority with more interest than did the French. The king was interested in the fight because he was quarreling with England. The French people, however, saw the American Revolution as a beacon. It filled them with the hope that they might throw off the autocratic rule of their own royalty.

In 1610, when the second of the Bourbon kings came to the throne, the powers and privileges of the French rulers began to grow. Throughout the next century and a half, their dictatorial methods brought wealth and strength to the nation, but most of the people did not benefit. They remained poor and became increasingly discontented. By the time the American colonies were ready to rebel against their British rulers, the French people were openly expressing dissatisfaction with the Bourbons.

Louis XVI became king of France in 1774, at a time when foreign wars and extravagances in the royal household had used up much of the wealth that earlier rulers had collected. Louis needed money, but he was warned he could get it only by calling a meeting of the national assembly. Known as the Estates-General, the assembly had been formed years before to give the people some hand in their government. It had not met, though, since 1614!

Louis reluctantly called a meeting in 1789, but he balked with Bourbon stubbornness when the elected delegates asked that their voting power be increased. When neither side would budge, the people's representa-

tives withdrew from the conference hall, met on a nearby tennis court, and proclaimed themselves the French lawmaking body. The somewhat subdued Louis agreed to work with the new group, but he soon showed that he did not intend to give up one of his royal powers or privileges.

Then came the real revolution. On July 14, 1789, aroused citizens of Paris stormed the Bastille to get arms and to release political prisoners from the ancient, hated fortress. The suc-



LOUIS XVI refused to give his people a share in the French government—and thereby lost his head

cess of the attack brought some concessions from the royal house, but again Louis refused to deal with the elected assembly. Strife followed and in 1791, two years after Washington became our first President, the king was beheaded. The next year the First Republic was formed.

The Republic, however, failed to bring peace and stability. Moderate

and radical groups fought the nobility, and then engaged in a bitter conflict between themselves. The radicals finally gained power, and soon broke up into clashing groups. The fall of the guillotine's knife became a common sight in Paris.

In 1799—threatened by enemies abroad, plagued by financial troubles at home, and tired of bloodshed and terror—France turned the reins of government over to Napoleon Bonaparte. For a time, Napoleon observed the principles of republican government, but eventually, like the Bourbons, he became a dictator. He used force in ruling at home, and his foreign military campaigns terrorized large parts of Europe until he was defeated at Waterloo, Belgium, in 1815.

From then until 1870 the pendulum of government swung violently in France. Autocratic rulers—a succession of kings and Louis Napoleon, Bonaparte's nephew—took over when elected officials failed to establish a strong regime. Then, when the kings and the emperor suppressed all vestiges of democratic power, revolution and civil war flared up.

Finally, in 1870, the Third Republic was established; the struggle for self-rule, that had begun almost a century earlier, was at an end. For a brief period during World War II, France was under a dictatorial government sponsored by the Germans. As soon as the Allies freed the country, though, the French set up a new republic—this one the Fourth—to continue the democratic traditions of the Third.